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NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
(SOUTHWESTERN)
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



BOB FENLEY, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

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DALLAS--A world authority on transplant immunology and two of his fellow scientists will join The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in August.

Dr. Rupert E. Billingham, who has been chairman of the Department of Medical Genetics and director of the Phipps Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, will direct a fundamental revision of Southwestern's Anatomy Department as chairman of a new Department of Cell Biology.

Also joining UTSMS will be Dr. J. Wayne Streilein and Dr. Alan E. Beer, both associates of Dr. Billingham at Pennsylvania.

In announcing the appointments, Southwestern's Dean, Dr. Charles C. Sprague, commented: "We are extremely fortunate in being able to attract Drs. Billingham, Streilein and Beer to our school.

"Dr. Billingham was a research associate of Dr. Peter B. Medawar at the time Dr. Medawar received the 1960 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology. And since then, Dr. Billingham's own research has contributed to a greater understanding of the body's basic immune responses," the dean added.

(The immune response--or "rejection"--has slowed the pace of heart transplantation and is an ever-present factor in kidney and liver transplants.)

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In accepting the appointment, Dr. Billingham said he and his associates "are interested in the basic science of organ and tissue transplantation and we look forward to cooperating with the departments of surgery and medicine in helping develop existing programs of surgical replacement therapy." (UTSMS doctors now have performed more than 40 kidney transplants.)

The general thrust of the new Department of Cell Biology will be: "To play its role in the study of the biology of man, with particular emphasis on structure and functional activity of his components at all levels," said Dr. Billingham.

"The central themes of department activity and teaching programs will include genetics, immunobiology and cutaneous biology," he added.

As for research to be conducted by himself, Drs. Streilein and Beer, Dr. Billingham said that in addition to the area of biology of tissue and organ transplantation, it would include bone marrow transplantation, graft-vs-host disease, the biology of the skin and its pigment cells and the general immunology of mammalian reproduction.

The British-born Dr. Billingham was educated at Oxford. He holds B.A., M.A., Ph.D., and Sc.D. degrees from the University of Oxford and another doctorate in Science, honorary, from Trinity College, Hartford. He held posts with the University of Birmingham, England, and the University College, London, before coming to the United States and the University of Pennsylvania.

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Dr. Billingham is an elected fellow of the Royal Society, a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, holder of the Alvarenga Prize of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He has lectured before the American College of Surgeons, Yale University, Johns Hopkins Medical School, National Institutes of Health, University of Oxford, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, American Dermatological Association, and a number of others, in addition to delivering a Harvey lecture.

The scientist is a member of a number of key advisory committees for the National Institutes of Health, National Research Council, Oak Ridge Associated Universities and others. He holds editorial and consulting posts with a number of journals dealing with immunology, experimental medicine, zoology and dermatology, and holds membership in a number of societies in these fields. He is the author of more than 160 scientific publications dealing with transplantation immunology and related subjects.

Dr. J. Wayne Streilein, now associate professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at Pennsylvania, will be a professor and associate director of the Department of Cell Biology at UTSMS. He also will hold an appointment in the school's Department of Internal Medicine.

He received an A.B. degree in Chemistry from Gettysburg College, Pa., and an M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a Pennsylvania Plan scholar, a Markle Scholar, a Lindback Foundation awardee and a Research Career Development awardee of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Streilein is a member of the American Association of Immunologists, John Morgan Society, Transplantation Society and Experimental Hematology Society. At the University of Pennsylvania he was a member of the Medical Faculty Council's steering committee and the ad hoc committee on medical school governance.

Dr. Alan E. Beer, now assistant professor in the departments of Medical Genetics and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Pennsylvania, will be assistant professor in the Department of Cell Biology at UTSMS.

He is a graduate of Indiana University at Bloomington where he received a B.S. degree in anatomy and physiology and of the Indiana University School of Medicine at Indianapolis where he received an M.D. degree.

He was recipient of a Smith Kline and French foreign fellowship to Nigeria in 1962 and a surgeon for the U.S.P.H.S. Division of Indian Health, and received a postdoctoral fellowship from the U.S.P.H.S. and Ford Foundation.

Dr. Beer was a recipient of the Lalor Foundation Award of 1969 and the 1970 Carl H. Hartman Award of the American Fertility Society.

He is the author of a number of scientific articles related to reproduction and transplantation.

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